

## **The U.S. 1903 Hartford Postal Stationery**

This is a traditional postal stationery exhibit of the 1¢, 2¢, 4¢, 5¢ and recut 2¢ envelopes and wrappers, showing essays, proofs, specimens, domestic and foreign uses.

The Philippines overprints and the 1920-1925 surcharged stationery are not shown. No reference will be made to the different dies of the 2¢ recuts classified by Drakos. Color differences of indicia are not distinguished, unless they determine a noteworthy catalogue type.

With 98 catalogue varieties, emphasis is on showing uses, rather than unused entires. All 98 types are in the exhibit, with all but six used.

The preliminary pencil sketches are certainly each one of a kind. Seven of the known eight rejected and accepted sketches are present in the exhibit.

The Hartford Issue went on sale in early 1903, with the earliest known use, March 14, 1903, shown here in the 2¢ 95 x 171 mm section. A recut 2¢ die was introduced in 1904. A survey of Hartford earliest known uses, compiled by the exhibitors, is maintained on the web site of the United Postal Stationery Society.

The exhibit is organized first by die; then, for each die, showing design, production and usage.

### **1¢ denomination.**

Design sketches, master die proof, specimens, production oddities.  
Issued envelopes and wrappers, organized by size - then paper.  
Bid samples.

### **2¢ denomination, Original die.**

Design sketch, master and working die proofs, specimens, production oddities.  
Issued envelopes and wrappers, organized by size - then paper.  
Bid samples.

### **4¢ denomination.**

Design sketches, master die proof, specimen, production oddity.  
Issued envelopes and wrappers, organized by size - then paper.

### **5¢ denomination.**

Design sketch, master die proof, specimen, production oddity.  
Issued envelopes, organized by size - then paper.

### **2¢ denomination, Recut die.**

Working die proof, production oddities.  
Issued envelopes and wrappers, organized by size - then paper.  
Bid samples.

The Hartford Manufacturing Co. lost their postal stationery contract on July 1, 1907, but the Hartford entires remained on sale until well after 1910. Our United Postal Stationery Society survey lists some varieties as not seen in use until 1911.